The U.S. Department of Energy, in cooperation with the state of Idaho and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, is seeking public comment on a proposal to retrieve buried waste at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory.

The proposed work will remove selected waste containing uranium, plutonium and americium. The action will also remove volatile organic compounds, which are the most mobile constituents in the waste. Taking this action now removes some of the highest levels of transuranic contaminants in the Subsurface Disposal Area.

Details of this recommended cleanup work are available in an Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis document that describes the proposal to retrieve buried waste from an area of Pit 4 in the Radioactive Waste Management Complex's Subsurface Disposal Area. The document is available for public review and comment until June 4, 2004 and can be viewed at: http://cleanup.inel.gov and in the administrative record. The Department of Energy is also willing to provide briefings to interested groups. To request a briefing, contact: Jeff Perry at 208-526-4570 or by e-mail to perryn@id.doe.gov.

Public Meetings

Idaho Falls – May 17 – Bennion Student Union Building (University Place), 1784 Science Center Drive, 7:30 p.m.

Twin Falls – May 19 – Taylor Building, Rooms 276 and 277, College of Southern Idaho, 315 Falls Avenue – 6 p.m. availability session, meeting starts at 7 p.m.

Boise – May 20 – Doubletree Riverside, Emerald Room, 2900 Chinden Boulevard – 6 p.m. availability session, meeting starts at 7 p.m.

Jackson, Wyo. – May 25 – Jackson Hole Middle School, Commons Room, 1230 South Park Loop Road – 6 p.m. availability session, meeting starts at 7 p.m.

Public comments can be submitted at http://cleanup.inel.gov

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